



## State Economic Snapshots

This month's snapshots include state-level jobs and unemployment data through February 2015. Individual state reports can be accessed [here](#). Below is a summary of this month's data.

### Highlights

- Private-sector employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia in February.
- The unemployment rate fell in 26 states and 18 states had no change.
- Construction employment increased in 45 states and the District of Columbia over the past year. Construction employment was hit particularly hard during the Great Recession. The recent job gains in construction are an important indicator of the housing recovery.
- Home prices increased in 48 states and the District of Columbia over the year ending in the fourth quarter of 2014.

### Private-Sector Job Gains

Private-sector employment increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia in February. California (37,800), Georgia (23,100), North Carolina (18,800), New York (16,400) and Pennsylvania (15,700) had the largest private-sector gains. On a percentage basis, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Utah, South Dakota and Georgia saw the largest gains.

Over the past 12 months (February 2014 to February 2015), all 50 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (437,800), Texas (342,700), Florida (256,900), New York (157,400) and Georgia (146,700) recording the largest gains. Utah (4.8 percent), North Dakota (4.7 percent), Georgia (4.3 percent), North Carolina (4.1 percent) and Florida (3.9 percent) had the largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period. In the past year, just over 3.2 million private-sector positions were added nationally, an increase of 2.8 percent.

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate declined in 26 states and 18 states had no change. Oregon (-0.5 percentage point) had the largest decline, followed by Michigan (-0.4 percentage point) and California (-0.3 percentage point). Of the six states (and the District of Columbia) with unemployment rate increases in February, only the increase in North Dakota (0.1 percentage point) was statistically significant.

Over the past 12 months, 46 states reported declines in the unemployment rate, with Kentucky and Rhode Island (-2.1 percentage points each) recording the largest declines.

The District of Columbia (7.8 percent) and Nevada (7.1 percent) had the highest unemployment rates in February. Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate (2.7 percent), followed by North Dakota (2.9 percent). The national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in February, down from 6.7 percent a year prior.

## Home Prices

Home prices increased the most in the District of Columbia (12.5 percent), Nevada (9.0 percent), North Dakota (8.4 percent), Colorado (7.9 percent) and Michigan (7.8 percent) from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's purchase-only, seasonally adjusted index. Florida, California, Georgia, Washington and Arkansas also recorded annual home price gains of at least 7.0 percent. All but two states (Maryland and Vermont) saw appreciation in home values. Home prices rose by 4.9 percent nationwide during this same period.

## Key Employment Sectors

*Manufacturing.* Manufacturing employment expanded in 26 states. California (4,200) Michigan (3,400), Kansas (3,000), Washington (2,400) and Colorado (1,500) had the largest increases. On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in New Mexico, Kansas, North Dakota, Colorado and Mississippi. Over the past 12 months, 35 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, South Dakota (4.6 percent), Oregon (4.2 percent), Colorado (3.9 percent), Michigan (3.5 percent) and North Dakota (3.1 percent) recorded the biggest gains in the past year. Overall, 208,000 manufacturing positions have been added across the country in the last 12 months, a 1.7 percent increase.

*Construction.* Construction employment increased in 33 states. California (11,200), Colorado and North Carolina (3,900 each), Ohio (2,900) and Georgia (2,800) saw the largest gains. The largest percentage gains during the month were in Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota and Colorado. In the past 12 months, 45 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in North Dakota (14.7 percent), Idaho (14.3 percent), Colorado (12.3 percent), Washington (11.6 percent) and Utah (10.8 percent). During this time, construction employment increased by 321,000 positions nationally, a 5.3 percent increase.

*Professional and business services.* Professional and business services employment increased in 26 states and the District of Columbia. California (9,200), Illinois (5,500), New York (5,200), Virginia (3,700) and Georgia (3,600) posted the largest increases. The largest percentage gains were in New Mexico, Maine, Kansas, Arkansas and Montana. In the past year, 46 states and the District of Columbia have added professional and business services jobs, with North Carolina (6.6 percent), Wyoming (6.0 percent), Oregon and Utah (5.5 percent each) and South Carolina (5.4 percent) recording the largest percentage gains. The economy has added 660,000 professional and business services jobs nationally during this time, a 3.5 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (February 2015)	
Nebraska	2.7%
North Dakota	2.9%
South Dakota	3.4%
Utah	3.4%
Minnesota	3.7%
Oklahoma	3.9%
New Hampshire	3.9%
Vermont	3.9%
Idaho	3.9%
Wyoming	4.0%
Hawaii	4.1%
Iowa	4.1%
Colorado	4.2%
Kansas	4.2%
Montana	4.3%
Texas	4.3%
Virginia	4.7%
Wisconsin	4.8%
Delaware	4.8%
Massachusetts	4.9%
Maine	5.0%
Ohio	5.1%
Pennsylvania	5.2%
Kentucky	5.2%
North Carolina	5.3%
Missouri	5.5%
Maryland	5.5%
Arkansas	5.5%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
Florida	5.6%
New York	5.8%
Alabama	5.8%
Oregon	5.8%
Indiana	5.9%
Michigan	5.9%
New Mexico	6.0%
Illinois	6.0%
West Virginia	6.1%
Alaska	6.3%
Washington	6.3%
Georgia	6.3%
Rhode Island	6.3%
New Jersey	6.4%
Connecticut	6.4%
Arizona	6.5%
South Carolina	6.6%
Tennessee	6.6%
California	6.7%
Louisiana	6.7%
Mississippi	7.0%
Nevada	7.1%
District of Columbia	7.8%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
**Data through February 2015**	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>3,241,000</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>7,817,000</b>
Alabama	-4.3%	-69,900	1.3%	20,300
Alaska	8.7%	20,600	8.2%	19,400
Arizona	-1.7%	-38,500	6.0%	124,600
Arkansas	0.3%	2,700	3.0%	29,300
California	4.7%	609,100	10.1%	1,240,500
Colorado	6.5%	128,300	9.6%	183,300
Connecticut	-0.7%	-10,500	2.2%	30,800
Delaware	0.0%	-100	4.3%	15,700
District of Columbia	13.1%	60,900	12.5%	58,500
Florida	1.5%	104,200	9.7%	610,800
Georgia	2.5%	86,100	8.2%	270,200
Hawaii	0.3%	1,500	6.2%	29,300
Idaho	2.4%	12,800	9.2%	46,400
Illinois	-0.9%	-48,100	2.9%	142,300
Indiana	1.2%	31,700	7.1%	172,200
Iowa	2.3%	29,900	4.4%	55,300
Kansas	2.0%	23,000	3.1%	34,100
Kentucky	1.0%	15,900	5.7%	83,800
Louisiana	5.6%	87,700	6.3%	98,100
Maine	-2.2%	-11,400	0.8%	4,000
Maryland	0.3%	7,300	3.5%	73,000
Massachusetts	3.8%	110,000	6.4%	179,100
Michigan	1.6%	58,700	10.7%	354,500
Minnesota	2.7%	63,000	5.5%	125,800
Mississippi	-3.6%	-33,300	1.1%	9,700
Missouri	-1.2%	-28,400	1.7%	37,900
Montana	2.6%	9,400	6.5%	22,500
Nebraska	3.2%	25,600	4.3%	34,600
Nevada	-4.3%	-48,700	4.6%	47,400
New Hampshire	0.9%	4,800	3.4%	18,300
New Jersey	-1.8%	-60,200	2.1%	68,400
New Mexico	-1.8%	-11,800	1.7%	10,500
New York	6.7%	485,400	8.5%	605,200
North Carolina	1.5%	51,000	7.3%	238,500
North Dakota	36.4%	104,200	34.8%	100,900
Ohio	0.1%	5,700	5.0%	221,000
Oklahoma	3.8%	48,400	4.9%	61,800
Oregon	0.9%	13,100	7.5%	101,400
Pennsylvania	1.3%	64,700	3.6%	178,600
Rhode Island	-1.1%	-4,700	3.4%	13,800
South Carolina	1.9%	30,700	8.2%	123,300
South Dakota	5.3%	17,500	5.4%	18,000
Tennessee	1.7%	40,000	7.2%	162,500
Texas	13.2%	1,158,700	13.9%	1,212,600
Utah	7.7%	81,800	13.3%	133,500
Vermont	0.7%	1,700	3.7%	9,200
Virginia	0.0%	-700	2.8%	83,400
Washington	4.9%	119,400	8.1%	192,700
West Virginia	-1.1%	-6,600	-0.1%	-800
Wisconsin	0.7%	17,400	3.9%	92,300
Wyoming	-0.7%	-1,600	-0.3%	-700